

1 AN ACT concerning nursing.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 ARTICLE 1. NURSE STAFFING IMPROVEMENT ACT

5 Section 1-1. This Article may be referred to as the Nurse
6 Staffing Improvement Act.

7 Section 1-5. The Hospital Licensing Act is amended by
8 changing Sections 7, 10.10, and 14.5 as follows:

9 (210 ILCS 85/7) (from Ch. 111 1/2, par. 148)

10 Sec. 7. (a) The Director after notice and opportunity for
11 hearing to the applicant or licensee may deny, suspend, or
12 revoke a permit to establish a hospital or deny, suspend, or
13 revoke a license to open, conduct, operate, and maintain a
14 hospital in any case in which he finds that there has been a
15 substantial failure to comply with the provisions of this Act,
16 the Hospital Report Card Act, or the Illinois Adverse Health
17 Care Events Reporting Law of 2005 or the standards, rules, and
18 regulations established by virtue of any of those Acts. The
19 Department may impose fines on hospitals, not to exceed \$500
20 per occurrence, for failing to: (1) initiate a criminal
21 background check on a patient that meets the criteria for

1 hospital-initiated background checks; or (2) report the death
2 of a person known to be a resident of a facility licensed under
3 the ID/DD Community Care Act or the MC/DD Act to the coroner or
4 medical examiner within 24 hours as required by Section 6.09a
5 of this Act. In assessing whether to impose such a fine for
6 failure to initiate a criminal background check, the
7 Department shall consider various factors including, but not
8 limited to, whether the hospital has engaged in a pattern or
9 practice of failing to initiate criminal background checks. If
10 a hospital demonstrates a pattern or practice of failing to
11 substantially comply with the requirements of Section 10.10 or
12 the hospital's written staffing plan, the hospital shall
13 provide a plan of correction to the Department within 60 days.
14 The Department may impose fines as follows: (i) if a hospital
15 fails to implement a written staffing plan for nursing
16 services, a fine not to exceed \$500 per occurrence may be
17 imposed; (ii) if a hospital demonstrates a pattern or practice
18 of failing to substantially comply with a plan of correction
19 within 60 days after the plan takes effect, a fine not to
20 exceed \$500 per occurrence may be imposed; and (iii) if a
21 hospital demonstrates for a second or subsequent time a
22 pattern or practice of failing to substantially comply with a
23 plan of correction within 60 days after the plan takes effect,
24 a fine not to exceed \$1,000 per occurrence may be imposed.
25 Reports of violations of Section 10.10 shall be subject to
26 public disclosure under Section 6.14a. Money from fines shall

1 be deposited into the Hospital Licensure Fund, and money from
2 finances for violations of Section 10.10 shall be used for
3 scholarships under the Nursing Education Scholarship Law ~~Long~~
4 ~~Term Care Provider Fund.~~

5 (b) Such notice shall be effected by registered mail or by
6 personal service setting forth the particular reasons for the
7 proposed action and fixing a date, not less than 15 days from
8 the date of such mailing or service, at which time the
9 applicant or licensee shall be given an opportunity for a
10 hearing. Such hearing shall be conducted by the Director or by
11 an employee of the Department designated in writing by the
12 Director as Hearing Officer to conduct the hearing. On the
13 basis of any such hearing, or upon default of the applicant or
14 licensee, the Director shall make a determination specifying
15 his findings and conclusions. In case of a denial to an
16 applicant of a permit to establish a hospital, such
17 determination shall specify the subsection of Section 6 under
18 which the permit was denied and shall contain findings of fact
19 forming the basis of such denial. A copy of such determination
20 shall be sent by registered mail or served personally upon the
21 applicant or licensee. The decision denying, suspending, or
22 revoking a permit or a license shall become final 35 days after
23 it is so mailed or served, unless the applicant or licensee,
24 within such 35 day period, petitions for review pursuant to
25 Section 13.

26 (c) The procedure governing hearings authorized by this

1 Section shall be in accordance with rules promulgated by the
2 Department and approved by the Hospital Licensing Board. A
3 full and complete record shall be kept of all proceedings,
4 including the notice of hearing, complaint, and all other
5 documents in the nature of pleadings, written motions filed in
6 the proceedings, and the report and orders of the Director and
7 Hearing Officer. All testimony shall be reported but need not
8 be transcribed unless the decision is appealed pursuant to
9 Section 13. A copy or copies of the transcript may be obtained
10 by any interested party on payment of the cost of preparing
11 such copy or copies.

12 (d) The Director or Hearing Officer shall upon his own
13 motion, or on the written request of any party to the
14 proceeding, issue subpoenas requiring the attendance and the
15 giving of testimony by witnesses, and subpoenas duces tecum
16 requiring the production of books, papers, records, or
17 memoranda. All subpoenas and subpoenas duces tecum issued
18 under the terms of this Act may be served by any person of full
19 age. The fees of witnesses for attendance and travel shall be
20 the same as the fees of witnesses before the Circuit Court of
21 this State, such fees to be paid when the witness is excused
22 from further attendance. When the witness is subpoenaed at the
23 instance of the Director, or Hearing Officer, such fees shall
24 be paid in the same manner as other expenses of the Department,
25 and when the witness is subpoenaed at the instance of any other
26 party to any such proceeding the Department may require that

1 the cost of service of the subpoena or subpoena duces tecum and
2 the fee of the witness be borne by the party at whose instance
3 the witness is summoned. In such case, the Department in its
4 discretion, may require a deposit to cover the cost of such
5 service and witness fees. A subpoena or subpoena duces tecum
6 issued as aforesaid shall be served in the same manner as a
7 subpoena issued out of a court.

8 (e) Any Circuit Court of this State upon the application
9 of the Director, or upon the application of any other party to
10 the proceeding, may, in its discretion, compel the attendance
11 of witnesses, the production of books, papers, records, or
12 memoranda and the giving of testimony before the Director or
13 Hearing Officer conducting an investigation or holding a
14 hearing authorized by this Act, by an attachment for contempt,
15 or otherwise, in the same manner as production of evidence may
16 be compelled before the court.

17 (f) The Director or Hearing Officer, or any party in an
18 investigation or hearing before the Department, may cause the
19 depositions of witnesses within the State to be taken in the
20 manner prescribed by law for like depositions in civil actions
21 in courts of this State, and to that end compel the attendance
22 of witnesses and the production of books, papers, records, or
23 memoranda.

24 (Source: P.A. 99-180, eff. 7-29-15.)

25 (210 ILCS 85/10.10)

1 Sec. 10.10. Nurse Staffing by Patient Acuity.

2 (a) Findings. The Legislature finds and declares all of
3 the following:

4 (1) The State of Illinois has a substantial interest
5 in promoting quality care and improving the delivery of
6 health care services.

7 (2) Evidence-based studies have shown that the basic
8 principles of staffing in the acute care setting should be
9 based on the complexity of patients' care needs aligned
10 with available nursing skills to promote quality patient
11 care consistent with professional nursing standards.

12 (3) Compliance with this Section promotes an
13 organizational climate that values registered nurses'
14 input in meeting the health care needs of hospital
15 patients.

16 (b) Definitions. As used in this Section:

17 "Acuity model" means an assessment tool selected and
18 implemented by a hospital, as recommended by a nursing care
19 committee, that assesses the complexity of patient care needs
20 requiring professional nursing care and skills and aligns
21 patient care needs and nursing skills consistent with
22 professional nursing standards.

23 "Department" means the Department of Public Health.

24 "Direct patient care" means care provided by a registered
25 professional nurse with direct responsibility to oversee or
26 carry out medical regimens or nursing care for one or more

1 patients.

2 "Nursing care committee" means a ~~an existing or newly~~
3 ~~created~~ hospital-wide committee or committees of nurses whose
4 functions, in part or in whole, contribute to the development,
5 recommendation, and review of the hospital's nurse staffing
6 plan established pursuant to subsection (d).

7 "Registered professional nurse" means a person licensed as
8 a Registered Nurse under the Nurse Practice Act.

9 "Written staffing plan for nursing care services" means a
10 written plan for ~~guiding~~ the assignment of patient care
11 nursing staff based on multiple nurse and patient
12 considerations that yield minimum staffing levels for
13 inpatient care units and the adopted acuity model aligning
14 patient care needs with nursing skills required for quality
15 patient care consistent with professional nursing standards.

16 (c) Written staffing plan.

17 (1) Every hospital shall implement a written
18 hospital-wide staffing plan, prepared ~~recommended~~ by a
19 nursing care committee or committees, that provides for
20 minimum direct care professional registered
21 nurse-to-patient staffing needs for each inpatient care
22 unit, including inpatient emergency departments. If the
23 staffing plan prepared by the nursing care committee is
24 not adopted by the hospital, or if substantial changes are
25 proposed to it, the chief nursing officer shall either:
26 (i) provide a written explanation to the committee of the

1 reasons the plan was not adopted; or (ii) provide a
2 written explanation of any substantial changes made to the
3 proposed plan prior to it being adopted by the hospital.

4 The written hospital-wide staffing plan shall include, but
5 need not be limited to, the following considerations:

6 (A) The complexity of complete care, assessment on
7 patient admission, volume of patient admissions,
8 discharges and transfers, evaluation of the progress
9 of a patient's problems, ongoing physical assessments,
10 planning for a patient's discharge, assessment after a
11 change in patient condition, and assessment of the
12 need for patient referrals.

13 (B) The complexity of clinical professional
14 nursing judgment needed to design and implement a
15 patient's nursing care plan, the need for specialized
16 equipment and technology, the skill mix of other
17 personnel providing or supporting direct patient care,
18 and involvement in quality improvement activities,
19 professional preparation, and experience.

20 (C) Patient acuity and the number of patients for
21 whom care is being provided.

22 (D) The ongoing assessments of a unit's patient
23 acuity levels and nursing staff needed shall be
24 routinely made by the unit nurse manager or his or her
25 designee.

26 (E) The identification of additional registered

1 nurses available for direct patient care when
2 patients' unexpected needs exceed the planned workload
3 for direct care staff.

4 (2) In order to provide staffing flexibility to meet
5 patient needs, every hospital shall identify an acuity
6 model for adjusting the staffing plan for each inpatient
7 care unit.

8 (2.5) Each hospital shall implement the staffing plan
9 and assign nursing personnel to each inpatient care unit,
10 including inpatient emergency departments, in accordance
11 with the staffing plan.

12 (A) A registered nurse may report to the nursing
13 care committee any variations where the nurse
14 personnel assignment in an inpatient care unit is not
15 in accordance with the adopted staffing plan and may
16 make a written report to the nursing care committee
17 based on the variations.

18 (B) Shift-to-shift adjustments in staffing levels
19 required by the staffing plan may be made by the
20 appropriate hospital personnel overseeing inpatient
21 care operations. If a registered nurse in an inpatient
22 care unit objects to a shift-to-shift adjustment, the
23 registered nurse may submit a written report to the
24 nursing care committee.

25 (C) The nursing care committee shall develop a
26 process to examine and respond to written reports

1 submitted under subparagraphs (A) and (B) of this
2 paragraph (2.5), including the ability to determine if
3 a specific written report is resolved or should be
4 dismissed.

5 (3) The written staffing plan shall be posted in a
6 conspicuous and accessible location for both patients and
7 direct care staff, as required under the Hospital Report
8 Card Act. A copy of the written staffing plan shall be
9 provided to any member of the general public upon request.

10 (d) Nursing care committee.

11 (1) Every hospital shall have a nursing care committee
12 that meets at least 6 times per year. A hospital shall
13 appoint members of a committee whereby at least 55% ~~50%~~ of
14 the members are registered professional nurses providing
15 direct inpatient patient care, one of whom shall be
16 selected annually by the direct inpatient care nurses to
17 serve as co-chair of the committee.

18 (2) ~~(Blank). A nursing care committee's~~
19 ~~recommendations must be given significant regard and~~
20 ~~weight in the hospital's adoption and implementation of a~~
21 ~~written staffing plan.~~

22 (2.5) A nursing care committee shall prepare and
23 recommend to hospital administration the hospital's
24 written hospital-wide staffing plan. If the staffing plan
25 is not adopted by the hospital, the chief nursing officer
26 shall provide a written statement to the committee prior

1 to a staffing plan being adopted by the hospital that: (A)
2 explains the reasons the committee's proposed staffing
3 plan was not adopted; and (B) describes the changes to the
4 committee's proposed staffing or any alternative to the
5 committee's proposed staffing plan.

6 (3) A nursing care committee's ~~committee~~ or
7 committees' ~~committees shall recommend a~~ written staffing
8 plan for the hospital shall be based on the principles
9 from the staffing components set forth in subsection (c).
10 In particular, a committee or committees shall provide
11 input and feedback on the following:

12 (A) Selection, implementation, and evaluation of
13 minimum staffing levels for inpatient care units.

14 (B) Selection, implementation, and evaluation of
15 an acuity model to provide staffing flexibility that
16 aligns changing patient acuity with nursing skills
17 required.

18 (C) Selection, implementation, and evaluation of a
19 written staffing plan incorporating the items
20 described in subdivisions (c)(1) and (c)(2) of this
21 Section.

22 (D) Review the nurse ~~following: nurse to patient~~
23 ~~staffing plans guidelines~~ for all inpatient areas; and
24 current acuity tools and measures in use. The nursing
25 care committee's review shall consider:

26 (i) patient outcomes;

1 (ii) complaints regarding staffing, including
2 complaints about a delay in direct care nursing or
3 an absence of direct care nursing;

4 (iii) the number of hours of nursing care
5 provided through an inpatient hospital unit
6 compared with the number of inpatients served by
7 the hospital unit during a 24-hour period;

8 (iv) the aggregate hours of overtime worked by
9 the nursing staff;

10 (v) the extent to which actual nurse staffing
11 for each hospital inpatient unit differs from the
12 staffing specified by the staffing plan; and

13 (vi) any other matter or change to the
14 staffing plan determined by the committee to
15 ensure that the hospital is staffed to meet the
16 health care needs of patients.

17 (4) A nursing care committee must issue a written
18 report addressing ~~address~~ the items described in
19 subparagraphs (A) through (D) of paragraph (3)
20 semi-annually. A written copy of this report shall be made
21 available to direct inpatient care nurses by making
22 available a paper copy of the report, distributing it
23 electronically, or posting it on the hospital's website.

24 (5) A nursing care committee must issue a written
25 report at least annually to the hospital governing board
26 that addresses items including, but not limited to: the

1 items described in paragraph (3); changes made based on
2 committee recommendations and the impact of such changes;
3 and recommendations for future changes related to nurse
4 staffing.

5 (e) Nothing in this Section 10.10 shall be construed to
6 limit, alter, or modify any of the terms, conditions, or
7 provisions of a collective bargaining agreement entered into
8 by the hospital.

9 (f) No hospital may discipline, discharge, or take any
10 other adverse employment action against an employee solely
11 because the employee expresses a concern or complaint
12 regarding an alleged violation of this Section or concerns
13 related to nurse staffing.

14 (g) Any employee of a hospital may file a complaint with
15 the Department regarding an alleged violation of this Section.
16 The Department must forward notification of the alleged
17 violation to the hospital in question within 10 business days
18 after the complaint is filed. Upon receiving a complaint of a
19 violation of this Section, the Department may take any action
20 authorized under Sections 7 or 9 of this Act.

21 (Source: P.A. 96-328, eff. 8-11-09; 97-423, eff. 1-1-12;
22 97-813, eff. 7-13-12.)

23 (210 ILCS 85/14.5)

24 Sec. 14.5. Hospital Licensure Fund.

25 (a) There is created in the State treasury the Hospital

1 Licensure Fund. The Fund is created for the purpose of
2 providing funding for the administration of the licensure
3 program and patient safety and quality initiatives for
4 hospitals, including, without limitation, the implementation
5 of the Illinois Adverse Health Care Events Reporting Law of
6 2005.

7 (b) The Fund shall consist of the following:

8 (1) fees collected pursuant to Sections ~~Section~~ 5 and
9 7 of the Hospital Licensing Act;

10 (2) federal matching funds received by the State as a
11 result of expenditures made by the Department that are
12 attributable to moneys deposited in the Fund;

13 (3) interest earned on moneys deposited in the Fund;
14 and

15 (4) other moneys received for the Fund from any other
16 source, including interest earned thereon.

17 (c) Disbursements from the Fund shall be made only for:

18 (1) initially, the implementation of the Illinois
19 Adverse Health Care Events Reporting Law of 2005;

20 (2) subsequently, programs, information, or
21 assistance, including measures to address public
22 complaints, designed to measurably improve quality and
23 patient safety; ~~and~~

24 (2.5) from fines for violations of Section 10.10,
25 scholarships under the Nursing Education Scholarship Law;
26 and

1 (3) the reimbursement of moneys collected by the
2 Department through error or mistake.

3 (d) The uses described in paragraph (2) of subsection (c)
4 shall be developed in conjunction with a statewide
5 organization representing a majority of hospitals.

6 (Source: P.A. 98-683, eff. 6-30-14.)

7 ARTICLE 5. NURSING EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP

8 Section 5-5. The Nursing Education Scholarship Law is
9 amended by changing Section 5 as follows:

10 (110 ILCS 975/5) (from Ch. 144, par. 2755)

11 Sec. 5. Nursing education scholarships. Beginning with the
12 fall term of the 2004-2005 academic year, the Department, in
13 accordance with rules and regulations promulgated by it for
14 this program, shall provide scholarships to individuals
15 selected from among those applicants who qualify for
16 consideration by showing:

17 (1) that he or she has been a resident of this State
18 for at least one year prior to application, and is a
19 citizen or a lawful permanent resident alien of the United
20 States;

21 (2) that he or she is enrolled in or accepted for
22 admission to an associate degree in nursing program,
23 hospital-based diploma in nursing program, baccalaureate

1 degree in nursing program, graduate degree in nursing
2 program, or practical nursing program at an approved
3 institution; and

4 (3) that he or she agrees to meet the nursing
5 employment obligation.

6 If in any year the number of qualified applicants exceeds
7 the number of scholarships to be awarded, the Department
8 shall, in consultation with the Illinois Nursing Workforce
9 Center Advisory Board, consider the following factors in
10 granting priority in awarding scholarships:

11 (A) Financial need, as shown on a standardized
12 financial needs assessment form used by an approved
13 institution, of students who will pursue their
14 education on a full-time or close to full-time basis
15 and who already have a certificate in practical
16 nursing, a diploma in nursing, or an associate degree
17 in nursing and are pursuing a higher degree.

18 (B) A student's status as a registered nurse who
19 is pursuing a graduate degree in nursing to pursue
20 employment in an approved institution that educates
21 licensed practical nurses and that educates registered
22 nurses in undergraduate and graduate nursing programs.

23 (C) A student's merit, as shown through his or her
24 grade point average, class rank, and other academic
25 and extracurricular activities. The Department may add
26 to and further define these merit criteria by rule.

1 Unless otherwise indicated, scholarships shall be awarded
2 to recipients at approved institutions for a period of up to 2
3 years if the recipient is enrolled in an associate degree in
4 nursing program, up to 3 years if the recipient is enrolled in
5 a hospital-based diploma in nursing program, up to 4 years if
6 the recipient is enrolled in a baccalaureate degree in nursing
7 program, up to 5 years if the recipient is enrolled in a
8 graduate degree in nursing program, and up to one year if the
9 recipient is enrolled in a certificate in practical nursing
10 program. At least 40% of the scholarships awarded shall be for
11 recipients who are pursuing baccalaureate degrees in nursing,
12 30% of the scholarships awarded shall be for recipients who
13 are pursuing associate degrees in nursing or a diploma in
14 nursing, 10% of the scholarships awarded shall be for
15 recipients who are pursuing a certificate in practical
16 nursing, and 20% of the scholarships awarded shall be for
17 recipients who are pursuing a graduate degree in nursing.

18 Beginning with the fall term of the 2021-2022 academic
19 year and continuing through the 2024-2025 academic year,
20 subject to appropriation from the Hospital Licensure Fund, in
21 addition to any other funds available to the Department for
22 such scholarships, the Department may award a total of
23 \$500,000 annually in scholarships under this Section.

24 (Source: P.A. 100-513, eff. 1-1-18.)

1 Section 10-5. The Illinois Income Tax Act is amended by
2 adding Section 232 as follows:

3 (35 ILCS 5/232 new)

4 Sec. 232. Credit for nurse educators.

5 (a) For taxable years beginning on or after January 1,
6 2021, any taxpayer who is employed during the taxable year as a
7 nurse educator is entitled to a credit against the tax imposed
8 by subsections (a) and (b) of Section 201 in an amount equal to
9 2.5% of the taxpayer's federal adjusted gross income for the
10 taxable year. As used in this Section, "nurse educator" has
11 the meaning given to that term in Section 3 of the Nursing
12 Education Scholarship Law.

13 (b) In no event shall a credit under this Section reduce a
14 taxpayer's liability to less than zero. If the amount of
15 credit exceeds the tax liability for the year, the excess may
16 be carried forward and applied to the tax liability for the 5
17 taxable years following the excess credit year. The tax credit
18 shall be applied to the earliest year for which there is a tax
19 liability. If there are credits for more than one year that are
20 available to offset liability, the earlier credit shall be
21 applied first.

22 (c) This Section is exempt from the provisions of Section
23 250.

